

Preliminary Amendment of U.S. National Stage for International Application PCT/EP2003/013920 filed December 9, 2003

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-10 without prejudice, and add new claims 11-30, in accordance with the following complete listing of all claims ever presented. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (new): A process for the preparation of a water containing composition comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of alkyl oligoglycoside carboxylic acid salts and alkenyl oligoglycoside carboxylic acid salts with a residual content of halocarbon compounds which comprises: heating an aqueous mixture comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of alkyl oligoglycoside carboxylic acid salts and alkenyl oligoglycoside carboxylic acid salts, water and halocarbon compounds at a pH of from 10 to 14 and a temperature of from 50° to 120°C, whereby a mixture with a reduced content of halocarbon compounds is formed.

Claim 12 (new): The process of claim 11 which comprises:

(1) reacting an aqueous mixture comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of alkyl oligoglycosides and alkenyl oligoglycosides with at least one member selected from the group consisting of halocarboxylic acids and halocarboxylic acid salts to form an aqueous reaction mixture containing halocarbon compounds; and

(2) heating the aqueous reaction mixture at a pH of from 10 to 14 to form a heated reaction mixture with a reduced content of halocarbon compounds.

Claim 13 (new): The process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the alkyl and/or alkenyl oligoglycoside comprises a composition of the formula:

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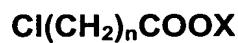


(I)

where R^1 is an alkyl and/or alkenyl group containing 4 to 22 carbon atoms, G is a sugar unit containing 5 or 6 carbon atoms and p is a number of 1 to 10.

Claim 14 (new): The process as claimed in claim 13, wherein the oligoglycoside comprises an alkyl glucoside of the formula (I), wherein R^1 is a C₁₂₋₁₈ alkyl group, G is a glucose residue and p is a number of 1 to 1.8.

Claim 15 (new): The process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the halocarboxylic acid or salt thereof comprises a compound of the formula:



(II)

wherein n is a number of 1 to 5 and X is hydrogen or an alkali metal.

Claim 16 (new): The process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the halocarboxylic acid or halocarboxylic acid salt comprises chloroacetic acid or its sodium salt.

Claim 17 (new): The process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the alkyl and/or alkenyl oligoglycosides and the halocarboxylic acid or its salt are used in a molar ratio of 1:0.9 to 1:5.

Claim 18 (new): The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the aqueous mixture comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of alkyl oligoglycoside carboxylic acid salts and alkenyl oligoglycoside carboxylic salts in a concentration of 30 to 60% by weight.

Claim 19 (new): The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the pH of the aqueous mixture is adjusted to a range of 10 to 14 by addition of aqueous alkali metal

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compounds.

Claim 20 (new): The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the aqueous mixture is heated at a temperature of 70 to 90°C.

Claim 21 (new): The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the aqueous mixture contains organochlorine compounds and is heated until a content of organomonochlorine compounds is below 5 ppm and a content of organodichlorine compounds is below 30 ppm.

Claim 22 (new): The process of claim 12, wherein the aqueous mixture comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of alkyl oligoglycoside carboxylic acid salts and alkenyl oligoglycoside carboxylic salts in a concentration of 30 to 60% by weight.

Claim 23 (new): The process of claim 12, wherein the pH of the aqueous mixture is adjusted to a range of 10 to 14 by addition of aqueous alkali metal compounds.

Claim 24 (new): The process of claim 12, wherein the aqueous mixture is heated at a temperature of 70 to 90°C.

Claim 25 (new): The process of claim 12, wherein the aqueous mixture contains organochlorine compounds and is heated until a content of organomonochlorine compounds is below 5 ppm and a content of organodichlorine compounds is below 30 ppm.

Claim 26 (new): The process of claim 13, wherein the aqueous mixture comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of alkyl oligoglycoside carboxylic acid salts and alkenyl oligoglycoside carboxylic salts in a concentration of 30 to 60% by weight.

Claim 27 (new): The process of claim 13, wherein the pH of the aqueous mixture is

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adjusted to a range of 10 to 14 by addition of aqueous alkali metal compounds.

Claim 28 (new): The process of claim 13, wherein the aqueous mixture is heated at a temperature of 70 to 90°C.

Claim 29 (new): The process of claim 13, wherein the aqueous mixture contains organo chlorine compounds and is heated until a content of organomonochlorine compounds is below 5 ppm and a content of organodichlorine compounds is below 30 ppm.

Claim 30 (new): The process of claim 15, wherein the aqueous mixture comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of alkyl oligoglycoside carboxylic acid salts and alkenyl oligoglycoside carboxylic salts in a concentration of 30 to 60% by weight.